

VERTIGO

Mar 07
suggested for mature readers
vertigo.com

FATHER
AND
SON

Bill
WILLINGHAM
Michael
ALLRED



THE MOUNTAINS OF THE FAR NORTH, SOMEWHERE IN THE HOMELANDS.

Looking back I can admit I was a little afraid of my father when I first met him. I suspect my sibs were too.

ARE WE THERE YET?

We were just wee tykes then, and he was this huge, intimidating figure, suddenly come into our lives after living apart from us for our first three years.

NEARLY.

And we weren't the only ones who found him scary.

WELL, IT BETTER BE SOON, BECAUSE I'M FREEZING!

THINK I'M DOING ANY BETTER?

We had to live in a special secluded valley because of all the Fables who were afraid of him.

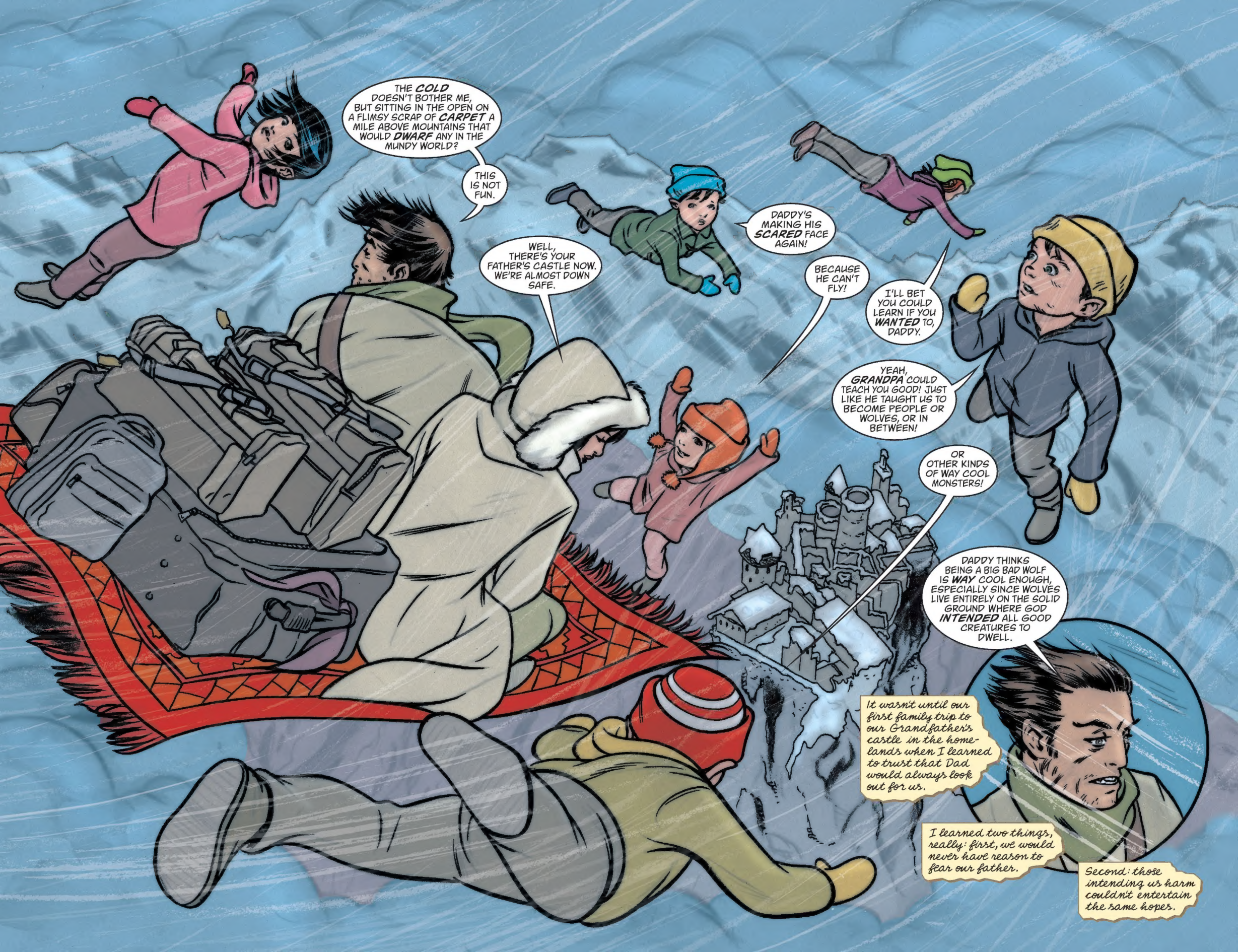
A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE

Part One of Father and Son

Bill Willingham: writer/creator
Michael Allred: artist

Laura Allred: colors
Todd Klein: letters
James Jean: cover
Angela Rufino: asst. ed.

Shelly Bond: editor



THE COLD DOESN'T BOTHER ME, BUT SITTING IN THE OPEN ON A FLIMSY SCRAP OF CARPET A MILE ABOVE MOUNTAINS THAT WOULD DWARF ANY IN THE MUNDY WORLD?

THIS IS NOT FUN.

WELL, THERE'S YOUR FATHER'S CASTLE NOW. WE'RE ALMOST DOWN SAFE.

DADDY'S MAKING HIS SCARED FACE AGAIN!

BECAUSE HE CAN'T FLY!

I'LL BET YOU COULD LEARN IF YOU WANTED TO, DADDY.

YEAH, GRANDPA COULD TEACH YOU GOOD! JUST LIKE HE TAUGHT US TO BECOME PEOPLE OR WOLVES, OR IN BETWEEN!

OR OTHER KINDS OF WAY COOL MONSTERS!

DADDY THINKS BEING A BIG BAD WOLF IS WAY COOL ENOUGH, ESPECIALLY SINCE WOLVES LIVE ENTIRELY ON THE SOLID GROUND WHERE GOD INTENDED ALL GOOD CREATURES TO DWELL.

It wasn't until our first family trip to our Grandfather's castle in the homeland when I learned to trust that Dad would always look out for us.

I learned two things, really: first, we would never have reason to fear our father.

Second: those intending us harm couldn't entertain the same hopes.





OKAY, CHILDREN, WE'RE HERE, TIME TO LAND.

WELCOME! WELCOME, ONE AND ALL!

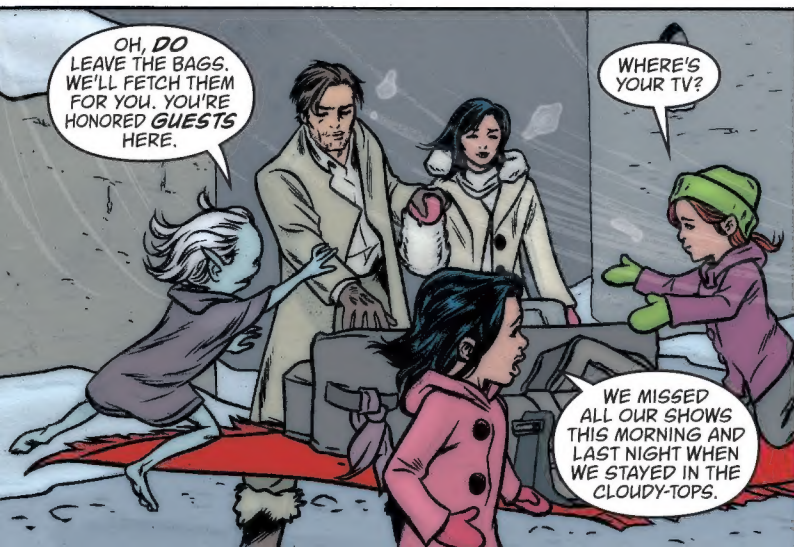
I AM MISTRAL, ONE OF YOUR FATHER'S MOST TRUSTED SERVANTS.



I SAW YOU COMING IN AND RUSHED UP HERE TO GREET YOU.

THIS IS SO COOL!

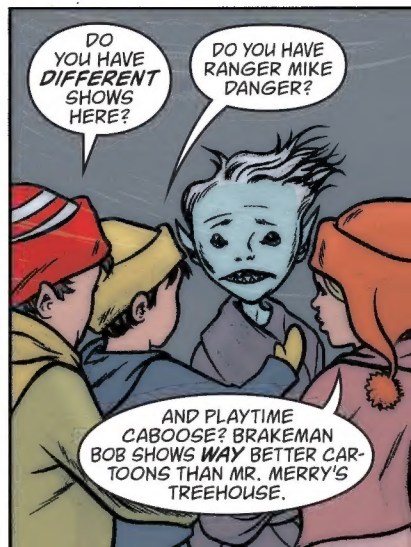
IT'S LIKE A REAL LIVE CASTLE!



OH, DO LEAVE THE BAGS. WE'LL FETCH THEM FOR YOU. YOU'RE HONORED GUESTS HERE.

WHERE'S YOUR TV?

WE MISSED ALL OUR SHOWS THIS MORNING AND LAST NIGHT WHEN WE STAYED IN THE CLOUDY-TOPS.



DO YOU HAVE DIFFERENT SHOWS HERE?

DO YOU HAVE RANGER MIKE DANGER?

AND PLAYTIME CABOOSE? BRAKEMAN BOB SHOWS WAY BETTER CARTOONS THAN MR. MERRY'S TREEHOUSE.



THESE ARE THE HOMELANDS, KIDS. THERE'S NO TV HERE.

WHAT?

NO TV?

NO FAIR!

YOU TRICKED US! YOU SAID WE'D HAVE FUN HERE!



SETTLE DOWN, HELLIONS. YOU DON'T NEED TO SCREAM EVERYTHING. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE ACTUALLY CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR YOU.

ARE THERE COMIC BOOKS AT LEAST?



WE'VE PREPARED THE VERY BEST OF OUR GUEST ROOMS FOR YOU--ONE OF THE FEW WITH AN ACTUAL FIREPLACE.

THANK GOD.

THE REGULAR DENIZENS OF THE KEEP DON'T NEED TO STAY WARM, SO MOST OF THE ROOMS--



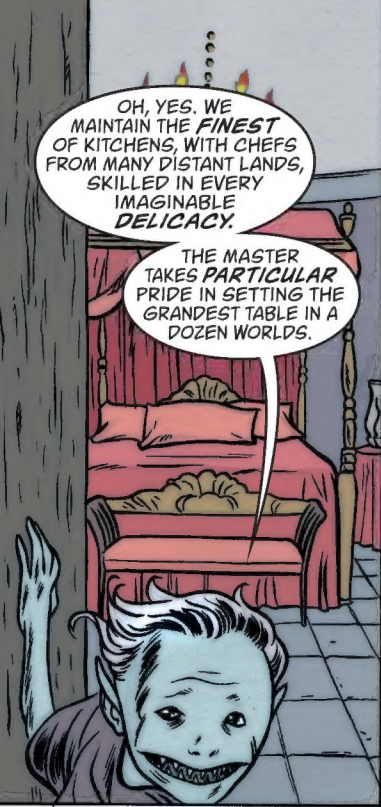
--I PRESUME THE CHILDREN DON'T NEED FIRES TO KEEP THEM WARM AT NIGHT, BEING GRAND-CHILDREN OF THE NORTH WIND?

OR, IF THEY DO, WE CAN SET UP THE OTHER GUEST ROOM WITH A FIREPLACE AS A DORMITORY FOR ALL OF THEM.



SEPARATE, UNHEATED ROOMS WILL BE FINE FOR THE KIDS. THEY TEND TO DO OTHER THINGS THAN SLEEP WHEN THEY ALL BUNK IN THE SAME PLACE.

WHAT ABOUT MEALS? DO YOU COOK HERE, OR--?



OH, YES. WE MAINTAIN THE **FINEST** OF KITCHENS, WITH CHEFS FROM MANY DISTANT LANDS, SKILLED IN EVERY IMAGINABLE **DELICACY**.

THE MASTER TAKES **PARTICULAR** PRIDE IN SETTING THE GRANDEST TABLE IN A DOZEN WORLDS.



MOMMY!

WINTER TOOK THE ROOM I ALREADY CALLED **DIBS** ON!

LET YOUR MOTHER WARM UP AND WORK OUT YOUR **OWN** PROBLEMS, **BLOSSOM**.



OH DEAR, OH DEAR...

IF THE CHILDREN WON'T BE HAPPY WITHOUT **TELEVISION** THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO **PROVIDE** IT FOR THEM. OTHERWISE, WHAT KIND OF **HOST** WOULD I BE?

PERHAPS WE COULD FOCUS THE **SCRYING** POOL ON A TELEVISION MACHINE IN THE **MUNDY** WORLD?

EXCELLENT! DO THAT THEN!

NOW, **TELL** ME, WHAT DID MY SON **LOOK** LIKE? WHAT DID HE **SAY** ABOUT ME?

A BIT LATER...

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO MY **BIG BAD WOLF**, UNDAUNTED AND UNAFRAID OF ANYTHING?

YOU'VE BEEN **HIDING** IN HERE FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR. SOONER OR LATER YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO SEE YOUR FATHER. IT'S **RUDE** NOT TO GREET OUR HOST.

I DON'T **KNOW** THE MAN LIKE YOU DO. WHY DON'T YOU GO?

I'M NOT LEAVING THIS FIREPLACE UNTIL MY BODY **REMEMBERS** WHAT IT'S LIKE NOT TO BE FROZEN.

AND HE'S NOT MY FATHER. HE'S **YOURS**.

BARELY!

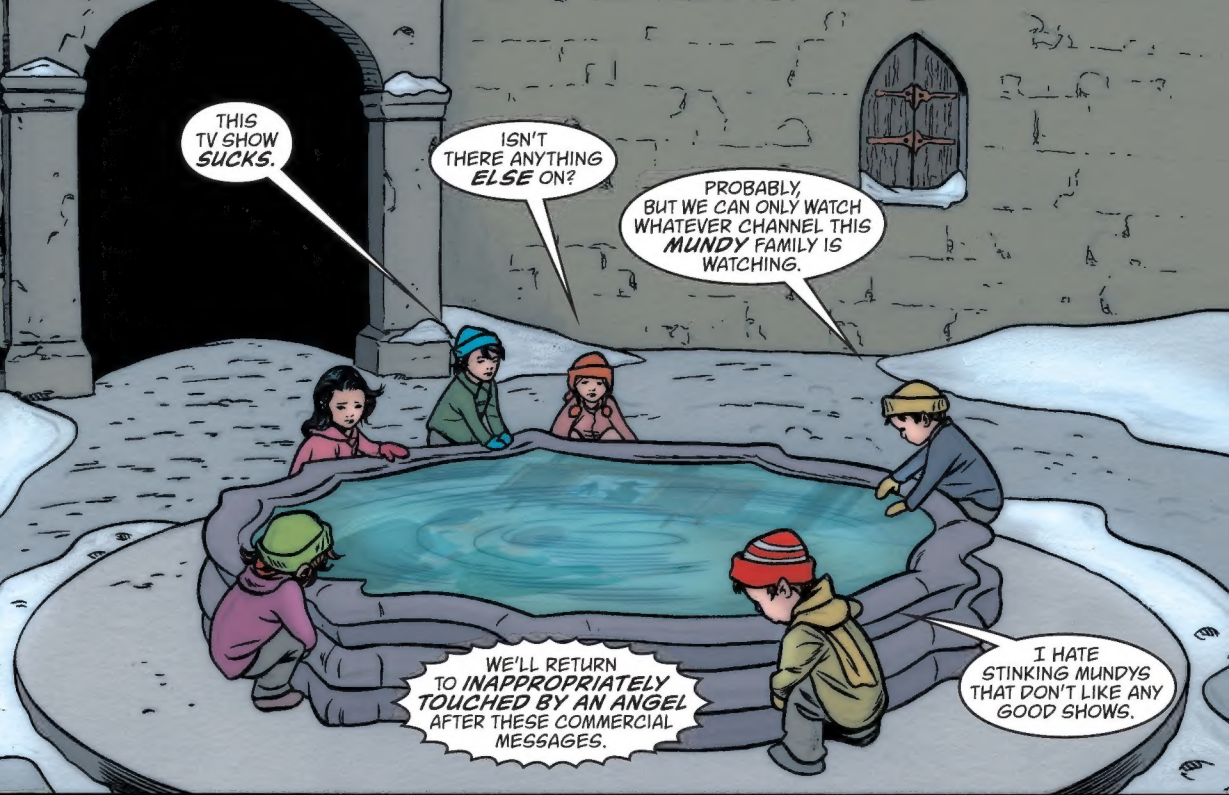
POOR BABY. NO ONE'S **SUFFERED** LIKE YOU HAVE.

YOU HAVE A **MEAN** STREAK IN YOU THAT SURFACES FROM TIME TO TIME AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO--

WHAT YOU'RE **NOT** GOING TO DO IS GET AWAY WITH TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

SCOOT!





THIS TV SHOW SUCKS.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING ELSE ON?

PROBABLY, BUT WE CAN ONLY WATCH WHATEVER CHANNEL THIS MUNDY FAMILY IS WATCHING.

WE'LL RETURN TO INAPPROPRIATELY TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL AFTER THESE COMMERCIAL MESSAGES.

I HATE STINKING MUNDYS THAT DON'T LIKE ANY GOOD SHOWS.

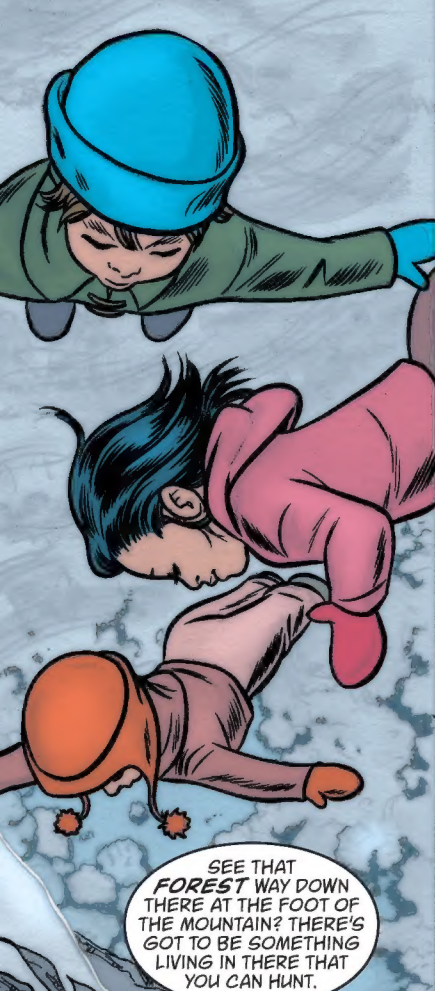


IF YOU CUBS THINK YOU'RE GOING TO WASTE THE WHOLE DAY WATCHING TELEVISION YOU HAVE ANOTHER THING COMING.



COME HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO GOOF OFF IN FRONT OF THE IDIOT BOX, YOU'VE GOT TIME TO CONTINUE YOUR LESSONS.

LOOK DOWN THERE.



SEE THAT **FOREST** WAY DOWN THERE AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN? THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING LIVING IN THERE THAT YOU CAN HUNT.



GET TO IT.

BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR TWO AND REMEMBER PACK DISCIPLINE.



DARIEN, HOLD UP A SECOND.

YES, SIR?



FOR BETTER OR WORSE, YOU'RE THE **LEADER** OF THE PACK. THAT'S OBVIOUS. SO YOU'VE GOT MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN THE OTHERS.

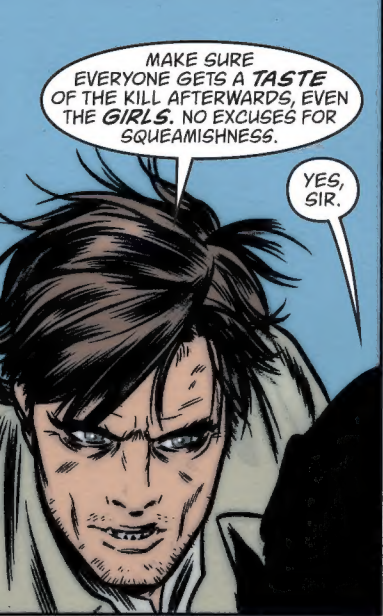
IT'S **YOUR** JOB TO TRAIN THEM AS MUCH AS IT'S MINE.



SO, YOU NEED TO LEAD THEM IN THE NEXT STEP.

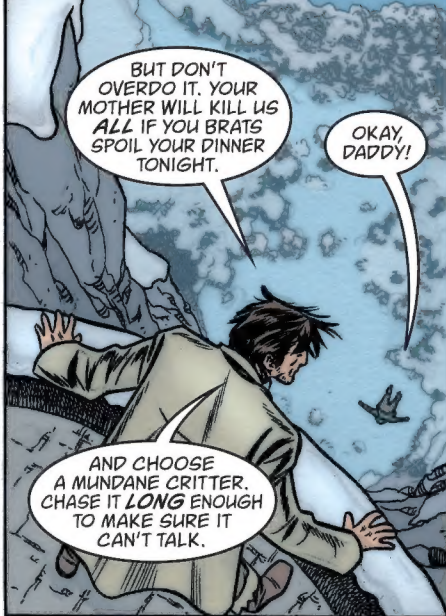
TODAY I WANT THE SIX OF YOU TO MAKE YOUR FIRST **KILL**.

IT'S A RITE OF PASSAGE YOU CUBS NEED TO DO ON YOUR OWN, WITHOUT ME LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER.



MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS A TASTE OF THE KILL AFTERWARDS, EVEN THE *GIRLS*. NO EXCUSES FOR SQUEAMISHNESS.

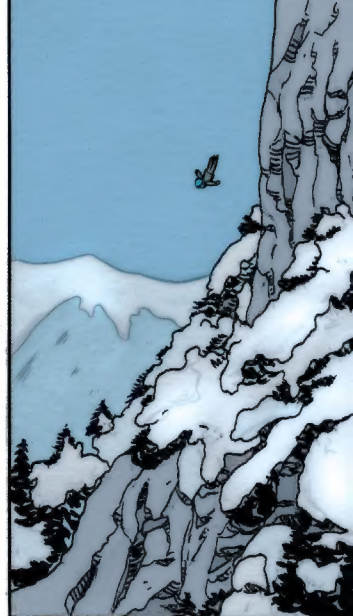
YES, SIR.



BUT DON'T OVERDO IT. YOUR MOTHER WILL KILL US ALL IF YOU BRATS SPOIL YOUR DINNER TONIGHT.

OKAY, DADDY!

AND CHOOSE A MUNDANE CRITTER. CHASE IT LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE IT CAN'T TALK.



HURRY, DARIEN! GET UN-DRESSED AND CHANGE!

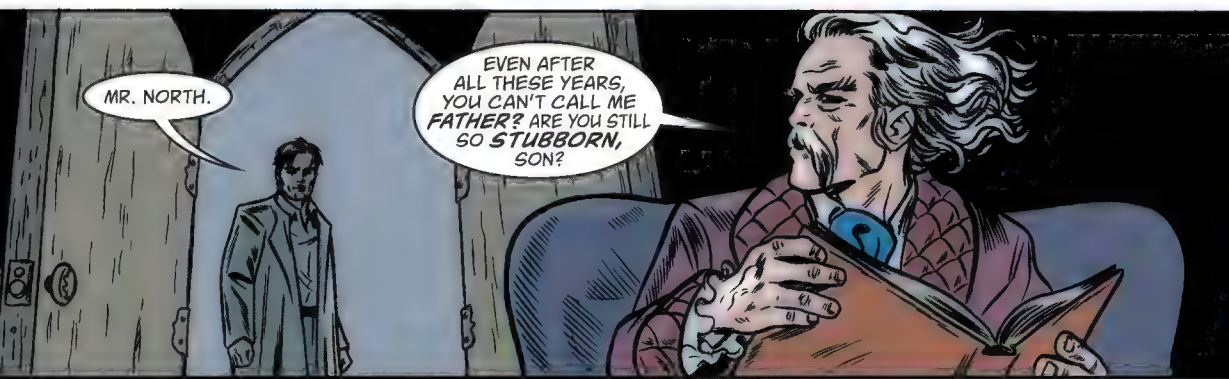




YOU!
WIND
CREATURE!

WHERE'S
YOUR BOSS?

UH...HE'S IN
THE LIBRARY, SIR.
TOP OF THESE STAIRS.
HE'S EXPECTING
YOU, SO GO
RIGHT IN.



MR. NORTH.

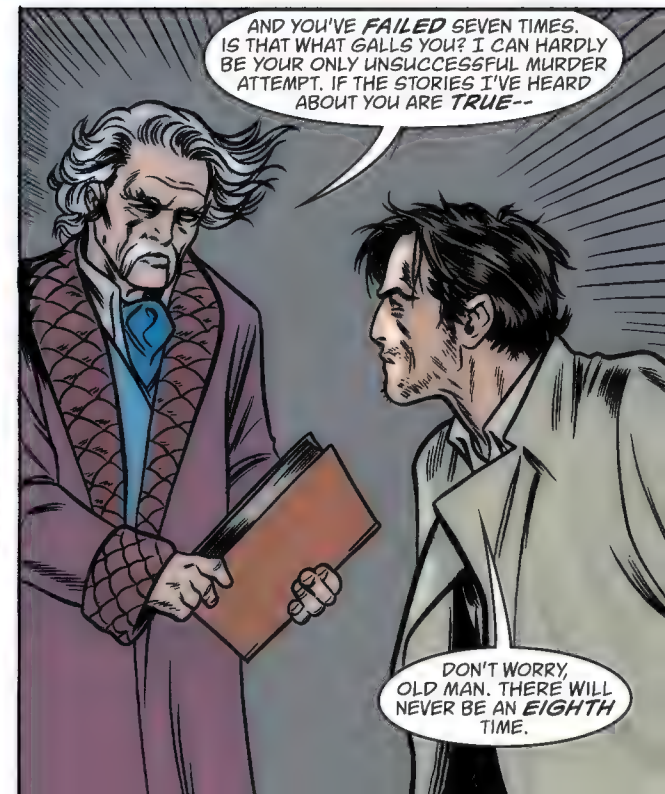
EVEN AFTER
ALL THESE YEARS,
YOU CAN'T CALL ME
FATHER? ARE YOU STILL
SO STUBBORN,
SON?



WHY
PRETEND WHEN
WE'RE ALONE?
YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN A FATHER
TO ME.

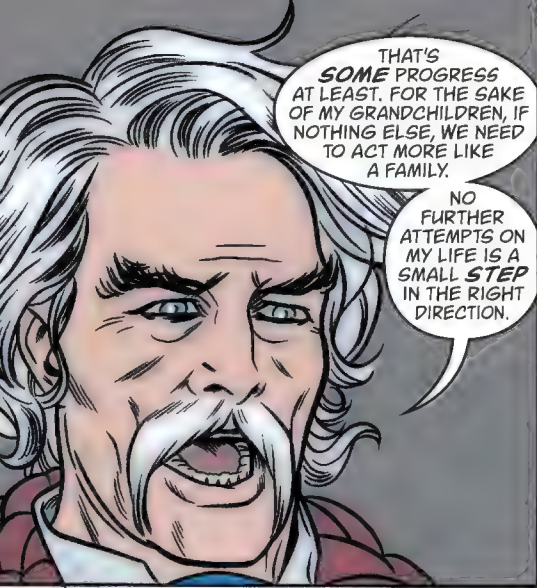
ONLY
BECAUSE
YOU TRIED TO
KILL ME THE
ONLY TIMES
WE'VE
MET.

SEVEN
TIMES.



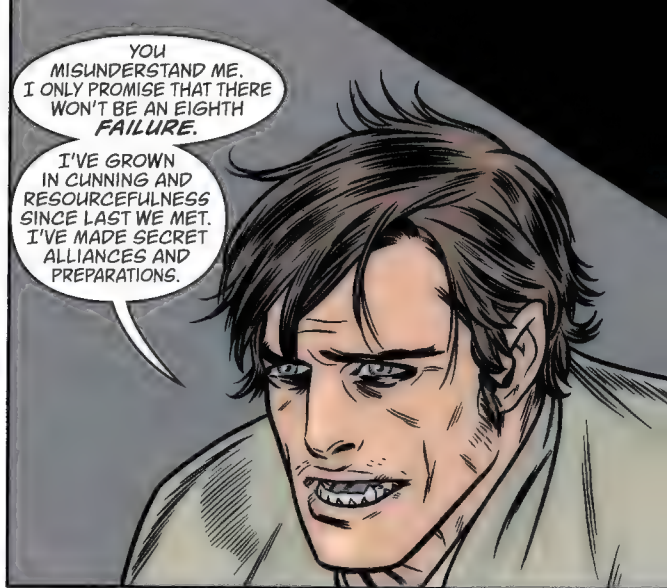
AND YOU'VE FAILED SEVEN TIMES.
IS THAT WHAT GALLS YOU? I CAN HARDLY
BE YOUR ONLY UNSUCCESSFUL MURDER
ATTEMPT. IF THE STORIES I'VE HEARD
ABOUT YOU ARE TRUE--

DON'T WORRY,
OLD MAN. THERE WILL
NEVER BE AN EIGHTH
TIME.



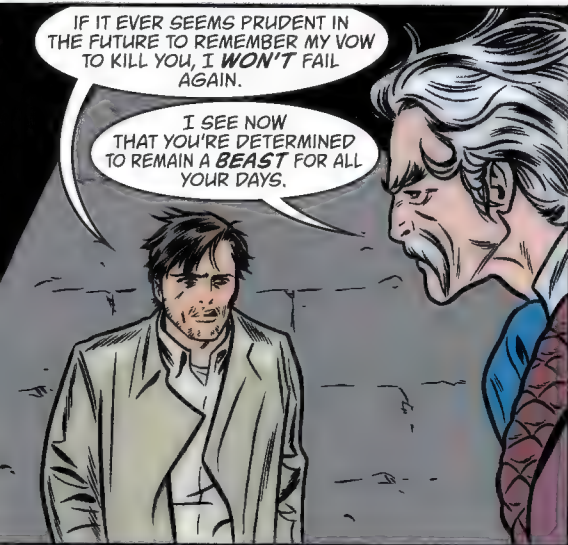
THAT'S **SOME** PROGRESS AT LEAST. FOR THE SAKE OF MY GRANDCHILDREN, IF NOTHING ELSE, WE NEED TO ACT MORE LIKE A FAMILY.

NO FURTHER ATTEMPTS ON MY LIFE IS A SMALL **STEP** IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.



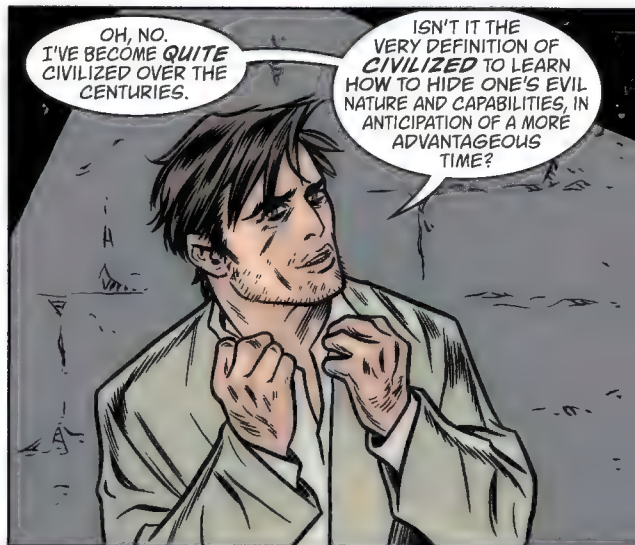
YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME. I ONLY PROMISE THAT THERE WON'T BE AN EIGHTH **FAILURE**.

I'VE GROWN IN CUNNING AND RESOURCEFULNESS SINCE LAST WE MET. I'VE MADE SECRET ALLIANCES AND PREPARATIONS.



IF IT EVER SEEMS PRUDENT IN THE FUTURE TO REMEMBER MY VOW TO KILL YOU, I **WON'T** FAIL AGAIN.

I SEE NOW THAT YOU'RE DETERMINED TO REMAIN A **BEAST** FOR ALL YOUR DAYS.



OH, NO. I'VE BECOME **QUITE** CIVILIZED OVER THE CENTURIES.

ISN'T IT THE VERY DEFINITION OF **CIVILIZED** TO LEARN HOW TO HIDE ONE'S EVIL NATURE AND CAPABILITIES, IN ANTICIPATION OF A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TIME?



ALL BECAUSE I LEFT YOUR **MOTHER**? THAT WAS INEVITABLE AND **SHE** KNEW IT, TOO. THE WINDS **ALWAYS** CHANGE. IT'S OUR NATURE.

YOU LEFT HER TO **DIE**, DON'T FORGET. OR HAVE YOU EDITED THAT LITTLE **DETAIL** OUT OF YOUR MEMORY, IN ORDER TO THINK **BETTER** OF YOURSELF?



FAN OUT FARTHER LEFT, WINTER! DON'T LET HIM DODGE THAT WAY AGAIN!

SQUEEEEEE-EEEEEE!!

I'M NO DUMMY, MR. KNOW-IT-ALL!



I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!

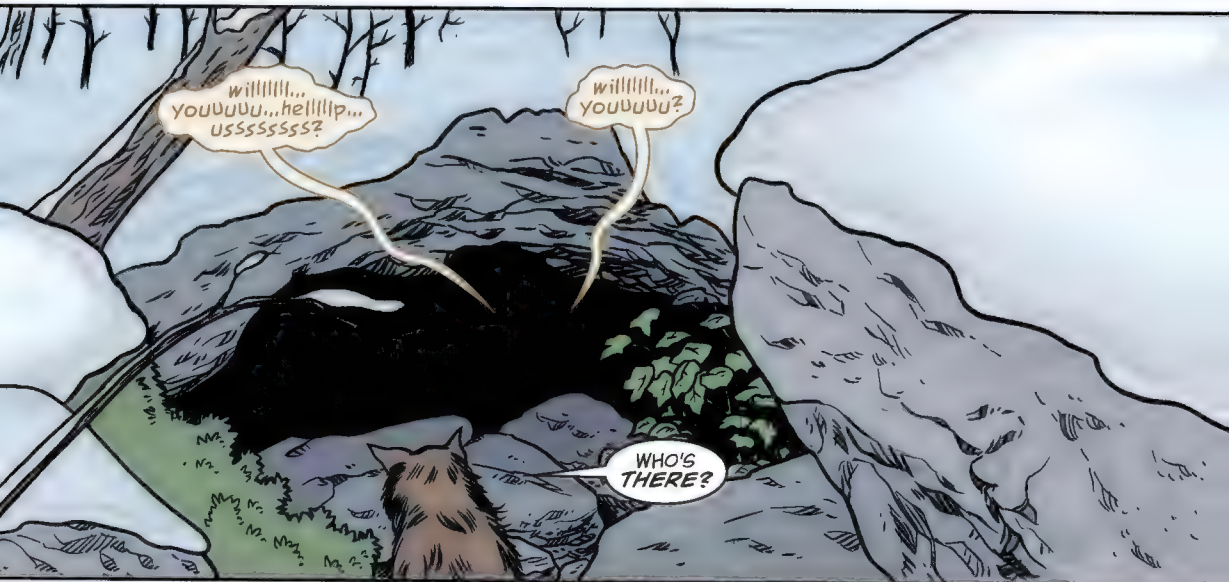


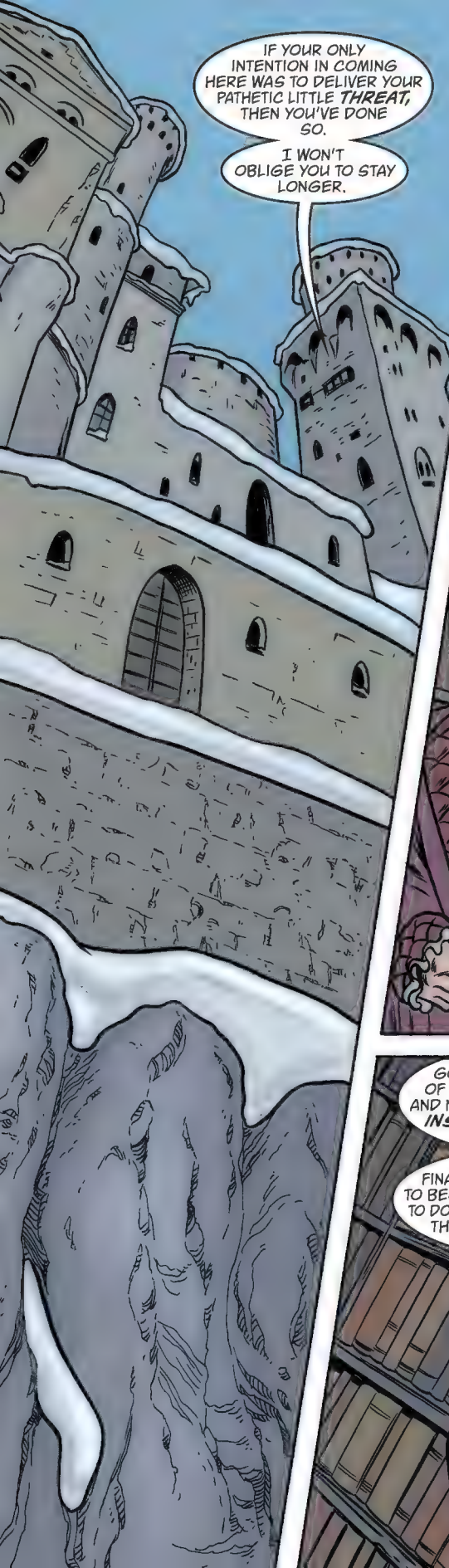
GET HIM!



HUH?

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR





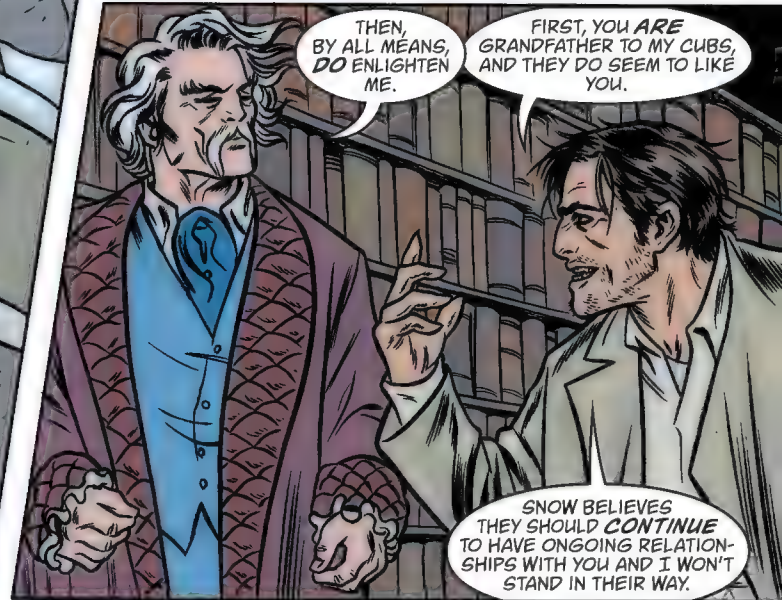
IF YOUR ONLY INTENTION IN COMING HERE WAS TO DELIVER YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE **THREAT**, THEN YOU'VE DONE SO.

I WON'T OBLIGE YOU TO STAY LONGER.



THAT WASN'T OUR REASON FOR VISITING AT ALL. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAD NO CONFUSION ON WHERE WE STILL STAND WITH EACH OTHER.

I'M HERE OFFICIALLY FOR TWO OTHER REASONS.



THEN, BY ALL MEANS, **DO** ENLIGHTEN ME.

FIRST, YOU **ARE** GRANDFATHER TO MY CUBS, AND THEY DO SEEM TO LIKE YOU.

SNOW BELIEVES THEY SHOULD **CONTINUE** TO HAVE ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOU AND I WON'T STAND IN THEIR WAY.

GOOD, BECAUSE I FIND EACH OF THEM DELIGHTFUL, INVENTIVE AND NOT BOUND BY YOUR STUBBORN **INSISTENCE** TO REMAIN WOLF AND NOTHING ELSE.

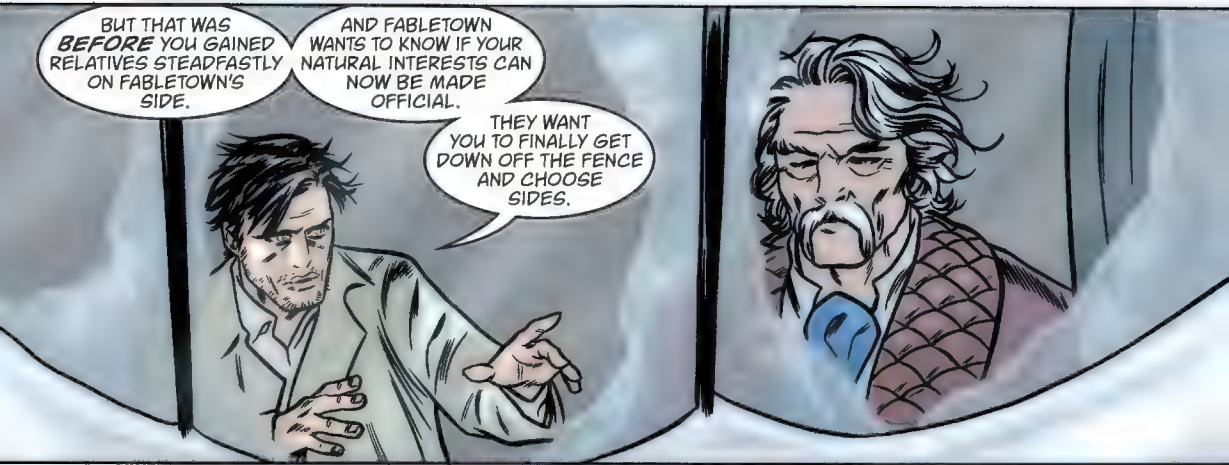
EVEN WHEN YOU FINALLY, **RELUCTANTLY**, AGREED TO BECOME A MAN, YOU FOUND A WAY TO DO THAT THAT DIDN'T INVOLVE USING THE POWERS YOU'D INHERITED FROM **ME**.





I *TREASURE* MY GRANDCHILDREN'S COMPANY EXACTLY TO THE EXTENT THAT I DO *NOT* ENJOY YOURS. WHAT'S YOUR SECOND REASON?

YOU SPOKE TO OTHERS IN FABLETOWN AS HAVING NO ALLEGIANCES IN OUR CONFLICT WITH THE ADVERSARY--NEITHER FOR US OR FOR THEM.



BUT THAT WAS *BEFORE* YOU GAINED RELATIVES STEADFASTLY ON FABLETOWN'S SIDE.

AND FABLETOWN WANTS TO KNOW IF YOUR NATURAL INTERESTS CAN NOW BE MADE OFFICIAL.

THEY WANT YOU TO FINALLY GET DOWN OFF THE FENCE AND CHOOSE SIDES.



AND IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

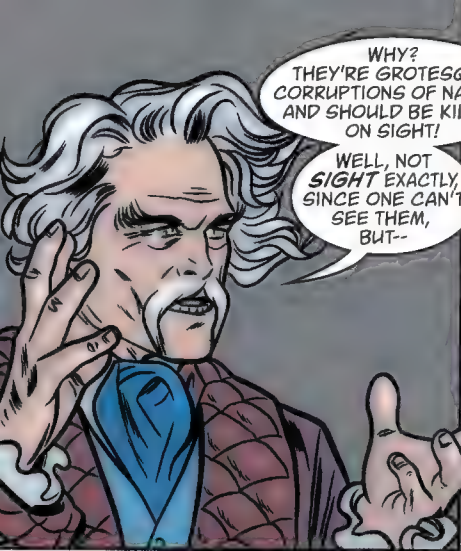
I WARNED THEM THAT YOU WOULD LET THEM DOWN SOONER OR LATER. WHAT WAS IT YOU JUST SAID? "A WIND IS *UNRELIABLE* BY ITS VERY NATURE"?

AND YOU'RE THE WINDIEST OF ALL WINDS, RIGHT?



THEN I SHALL JOIN THE CAUSE, NOT ONLY TO PRESERVE THE SAFETY OF MY GRANDCHILDREN, BUT TO THOROUGHLY *VEX* YOU BY PROVING YOU WRONG.

FINE. THEN THE FIRST THING WE NEED YOU TO DO IS ROUND UP A FEW DOZEN OF THOSE INVISIBLE WIND CREATURES YOU SPOKE OF--THOSE ZEPHYRS.



WHY?
THEY'RE GROTESQUE
CORRUPTIONS OF NATURE
AND SHOULD BE KILLED
ON SIGHT!

WELL, NOT
SIGHT EXACTLY,
SINCE ONE CAN'T
SEE THEM, BUT--



WE NEED
THEM **PRECISELY**
BECAUSE THEY'RE
IMPOSSIBLE TO
DETECT.

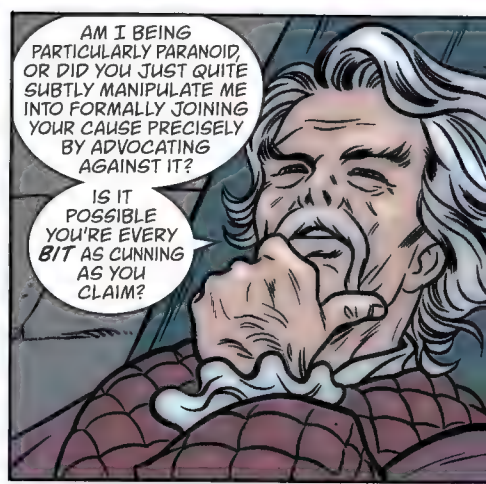
FABLETOWN
IS NEWLY FULL OF
EMPIRE SPIES DRESSED
UP IN ENVOY'S CLOTHING. WE
WANT THEM **FOLLOWED**,
NIGHT AND DAY, NO MATTER
WHERE THEY GO OR
WHAT THEY DO.



FIND US SOME
ZEPHYRS AND BEND THEM
TO YOUR WILL. THEN I'LL TRAIN
THEM TO DO WHAT WE NEED
DONE.

IF THAT
IS WHAT YOU
NEED, THEN I'LL
COMPLY. ONLY--

YES?



AM I BEING
PARTICULARLY PARANOID,
OR DID YOU JUST QUITE
SUBTLY MANIPULATE ME
INTO FORMALLY JOINING
YOUR CAUSE **PRECISELY**
BY ADVOCATING
AGAINST IT?

IS IT
POSSIBLE
YOU'RE EVERY
BIT AS CUNNING
AS YOU
CLAIM?



WE SHOULD
GO DOWN TO DINNER,
MR. NORTH. SNOW WILL
BE WONDERING IF WE'VE
KILLED EACH OTHER
YET.

ELSEWHERE IN THE
WORLDS-SPANNING
HOMELANDS...

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
POPS!

BUT IT'S
NOT MY **BIRTHDAY**,
PINOCCHIO.

TRUTH BE TOLD,
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHEN
MY BIRTHDAY IS. MY PARENTS
HAD NO READING AND NEVER
MARKED THE DATE
EXACTLY.

I
KNOW
THAT,
POP.

BUT IF MY
YOUNGER BROTHER, THE
BIG BAD **EMPEROR**, GETS
HIS BIRTHDAY BASH EVERY YEAR, I
FIGURED YOU SHOULD AT LEAST
GET SOMETHING ON A DAY
ALL YOUR OWN.

BUT
WE **KNOW** HIS
BIRTHDAY--THE DAY I
FINISHED CARVING
HIM.

YEAH, SURE, BUT SO **WHAT** IF
I DIDN'T PICK THE RIGHT DAY FOR
YOURS? AS LONG AS WE REMEMBER
IT, AND FAITHFULLY CELEBRATE IT
EVERY YEAR, IT WORKS.

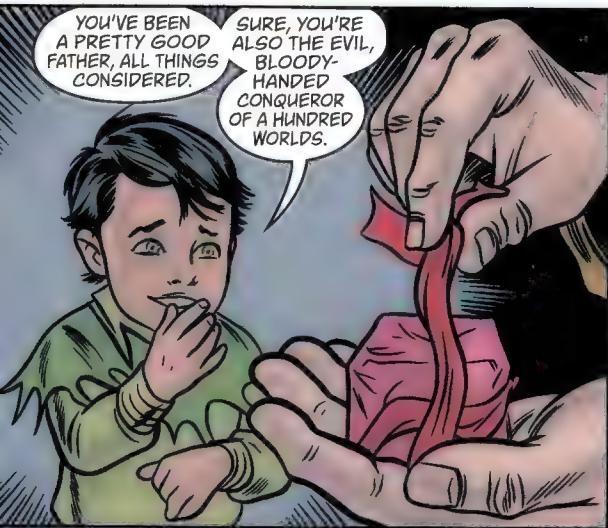
BEFORE
LONG IT'LL FEEL
JUST RIGHT.
TRUST ME.



NOW OPEN YOUR PRESENT. DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING HERE, OLD MAN.

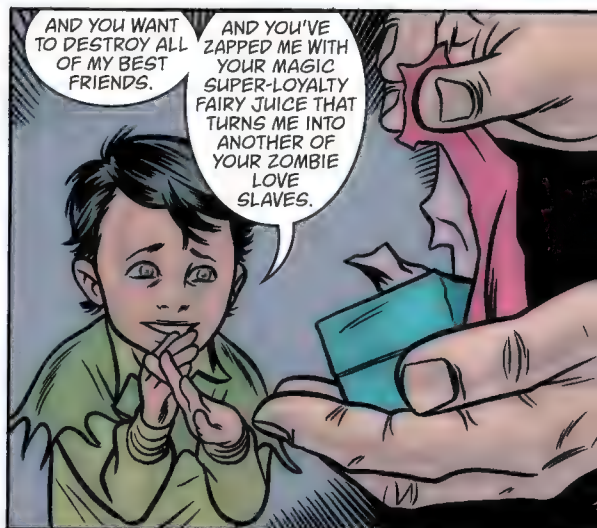
YOU CAN'T REJECT A GIFT HANDMADE FOR YOU FROM YOUR OWN FIRST-CARVED SON. THAT JUST AIN'T COUTH.

WELL...



YOU'VE BEEN A PRETTY GOOD FATHER, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

SURE, YOU'RE ALSO THE EVIL, BLOODY-HANDED CONQUEROR OF A HUNDRED WORLDS.



AND YOU WANT TO DESTROY ALL OF MY BEST FRIENDS.

AND YOU'VE ZAPPED ME WITH YOUR MAGIC SUPER-LOYALTY FAIRY JUICE THAT TURNS ME INTO ANOTHER OF YOUR ZOMBIE LOVE SLAVES.



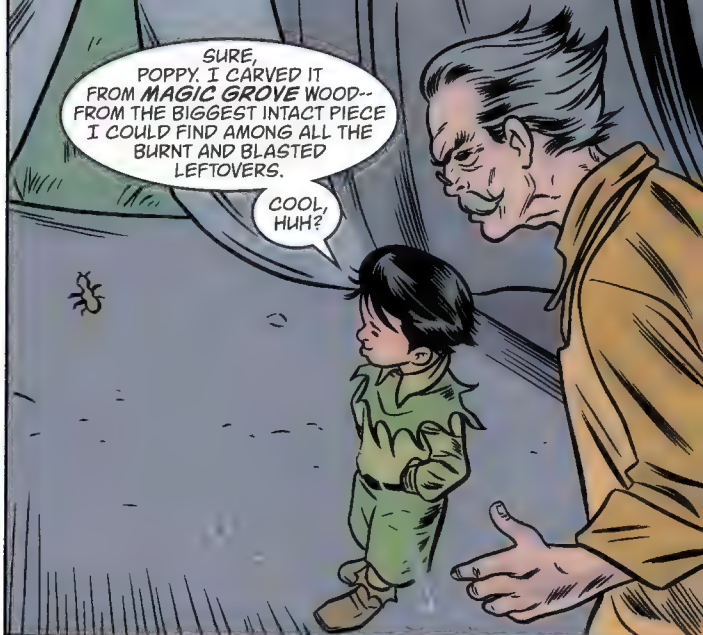
AND SURE, YOU DO SEEM TO ORDER AN AWFUL LOT OF EXECUTIONS--

PLEASE STOP SINGING MY PRAISES, SON. ANY MORE AND I'LL BEGIN TO WONDER IF MY BLUE FAIRY FORMULA ACTUALLY HAD AN EFFECT ON YOUR LOYALTY AT ALL.



WHAT'S THIS? A WOODEN BUG?

I CARVED IT MYSELF! OKAY, SO IT DIDN'T TURN OUT SO GOOD, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN AT THIS FOR CENTURIES LIKE YOU HAVE.

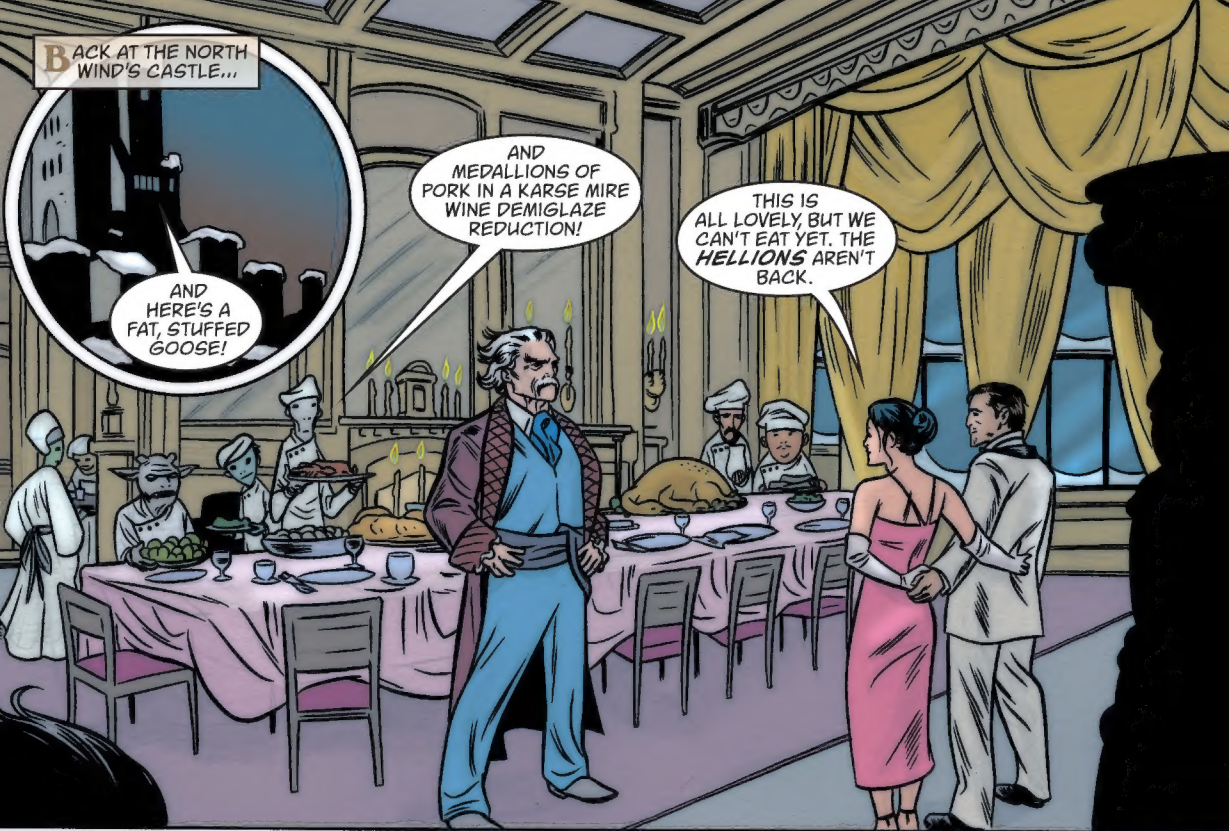


BACK AT THE NORTH WIND'S CASTLE...

AND HERE'S A FAT, STUFFED GOOSE!

AND MEDALLIONS OF PORK IN A KARSE MIRE WINE DEMIGLAZE REDUCTION!

THIS IS ALL LOVELY, BUT WE CAN'T EAT YET. THE HELLIONS AREN'T BACK.



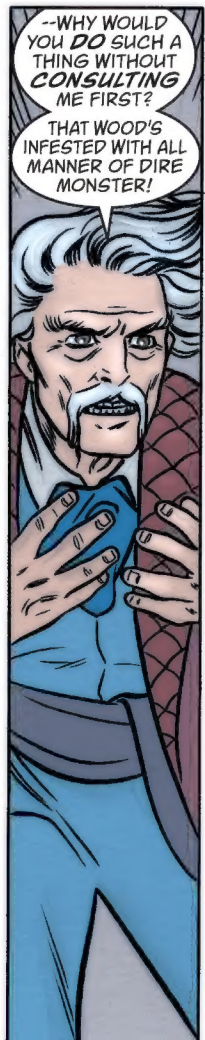
WHERE HAVE THEY GOTTEN TO?

I SENT THEM INTO THE FOREST DOWN BELOW TO HUNT. THEY'LL BE ALONG AS SOON AS THEY NOTICE IT'S GETTING DARK.

BUT--

--WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING WITHOUT CONSULTING ME FIRST?

THAT WOOD'S INFESTED WITH ALL MANNER OF DIRE MONSTER!



WHAT?



We'll drink your blood!

And eat your flesh!

And suck marrow from your bones!

That's your fate!

For being careless!

Venturing in alone!

=:GULP=:

**NEXT:
Wild Things!**



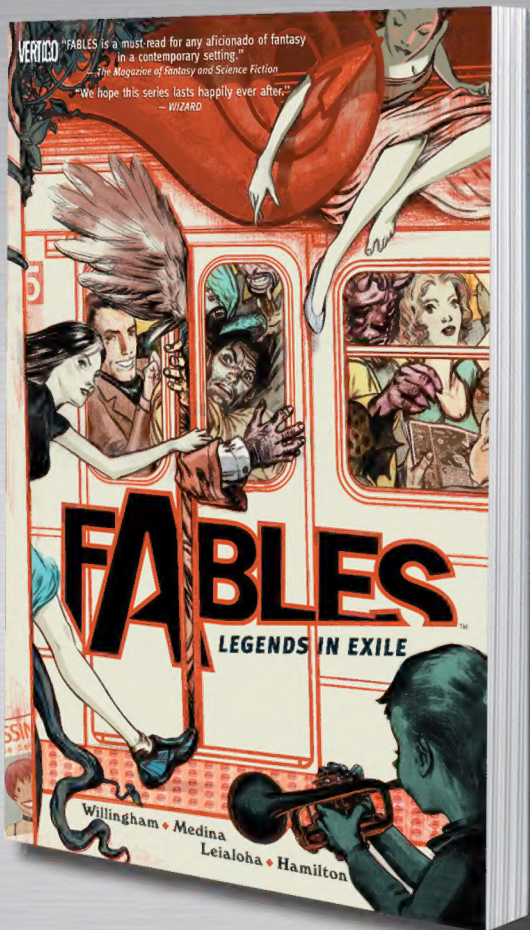
"FABLES is an excellent series in the tradition of SANDMAN, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty." – ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BILL WILLINGHAM

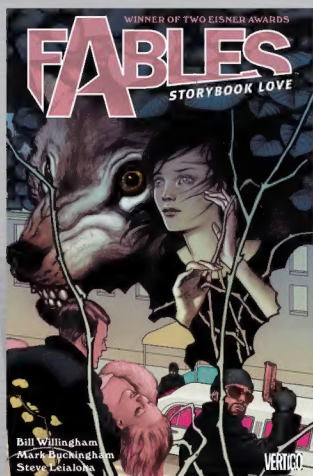
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."
– THE WASHINGTON POST



- VOL. 1: LEGENDS IN EXILE
- VOL. 2: ANIMAL FARM
- VOL. 3: STORYBOOK LOVE
- VOL. 4: MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS
- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



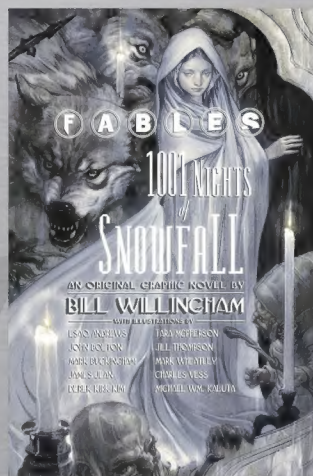
FABLES VOL. 3:
STORYBOOK LOVE



FABLES VOL. 6:
HOMELANDS



FABLES:
1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**

Suggested for Mature Readers



NATHAN